(b) if so, what are the specific reasons for this shortage;

(c) what steps Government have initiated to overcome the problem;

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that exporters are forced to bring empty containers from Singapore and Colombo to Madras and other Southern Ports at exhorbitant cost;

(e) what had been the annual production of containers in the country during the last three years, year-wise and unit-wise, and location of production units;

(f) what has been the annual requirement of containers during this period, year-wise; and

(g) whether Government would try to locate more production units in South India, near the ports; for a long term solution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The availability of containers depends upon various factors like demand production and their engagement by various shippers.

(d) This Ministry has no such information.

(c) and (e) to (g). The requirement of containers depends upon the traffic generated. The production of the containers depends upon the demand. The Marine Freight Containers is a de-licensed industry. The entrepreneurs intending to manufacture the containers may file an industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda with the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Industry. These are eight units manufacturing Marine Freight Containers in organised sector. As per the available figures seven of them produced 6756 container during 1993-94 and 8533 containers during 1994-95 as per the details given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Location	Production Figures 1993-94	1994-95
1.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	Cochin	1052	1365
2.	-do-	Calcutta	Nil	Nil
3.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	Calcutta	20	119
4.	Him Containers Ltd.	Haldia	327	735
5.	Nathani Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Bombay]	Nil	Nil
6.	Sealord Containers Ltd.	Chembur, Bombay	Nil	Nil
7.	Trans Freight Containers Ltd.	Tarapur]	5357	6314

Declaration of Dibrugarh-Oiramghat Waterways as National Waterways

3804. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of National Waterways in the country and their location;

(b) the decision of Government to declare Dibrugarh Oiramghat (Assam-Arunachal Pradesh) Waterways, which takes 9 hours up stream and 6 hours down stream, respectively, by ferry, as National Waterways; and

(c) the details of the proposal in this regard, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There are three National Waterways in the country as detailed below:

(i) National Waterway No. I— Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (1620 Kms) from Haldia to Allahabad.

(ii) National Waterway No. II— River Brahmaputra from Bangladesh Border to Sadiya (8 kms)

(iii) National Waterway No. III— The West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram (168 kms) and Chmapakara canal (14 kms) and Udyogmandal canal (23 kms).

(b) and (c) As the stretch Dibrugarh— Oriaghat (which is 65 kms upstream of Dibrugarh) is a part of the already declared National Waterway No. II, no further action is contemplated.

Express Highways between Gandhidham Ahmedabad Baroda-Bombay

3805. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the traffic between Gandhidham - Ahmedabad - Baroda - Bombay, presently;

(b) whether Government would consider laying express highway between Gandhidham - Ahmedabad - Baroda Bombay, linking the same to Baroda-Ahmedabad *via* Surat, Bulsra and Vapi during the Century;

(c) if not, what measures are being taken to improve the transport facilities;

(d) how many express highways are being proposed in Western India, as on lities;

(c) what are the details regarding the population it is expected to serve, the length of the highway, the cost of the project, the year in which it is expected to be completed, etc.;

(f) whether the Western States have approached the Central Government with any proposal to include any highway under the Express Highway Scheme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A statement showing the traffic intensity as per October/December 1994 traffic census at selected points on NH-8 and NH-8A in Gujarat and Maharashtra is given below.

(b) and (c) An Expressway between Ahmedabad and Vadodara having a length 92.8 km. in Gujarat is under construction. Feasibility Study for expressway from Vadodara to Bombay has been completed.

(d) Presently there are no firm proposals.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) and (g) Expressways are planned keeping in view the national perspective rather than individual states reuirements.

Statement

Details of traffic intensity as per October, 1994 traffic census at selected Points on NH-8 and 8A in Gujarat is as under :

NH—8 Location	Chainage/Km.	PCUs/Day
Shahwadi	70	83894
Jambua	130/4	56818